

B. Time

The frequency of traffic collisions is affected by the settings of the clock and calendar. The concentration of traffic, for example, is heavier at certain times of the day, days of the week and month. Travel is also affected by holidays and by special events such as football games. In addition to travel, driver attitudes, vision and behavior are influenced by time factors. In addition, weather may be influenced by time of year. On the following pages, statistics are presented which indicate observable time variables. Some of the important observations in the 1999 data are as follows.

- ◆ For the first time since 1994 more traffic deaths occurred on the four weekdays (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 537) than during the three weekend days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday - 527).
- ◆ Property Damage Only collisions are much more likely to occur during daylight hours. About 73% of the collisions that have no injuries or fatalities occurred between 6:01am and 6:00pm.
- ◆ In contrast to the Property Damage Only collisions, fatal collisions occurred more frequently in the nighttime hours between 6:01pm and 6:00am. Approximately 51% of all fatal collisions occurred during this twelve-hour period.
- ◆ More traffic crashes were reported on Friday than any other day of the week with 18,721 collisions during 1999, accounting for more than 17.9% of the total. No other day of the week experienced as many as 16,000 collisions. The fewest traffic collisions were reported on Sundays with 9,498 or 9.7%.
- ◆ As in past years, more fatal collisions were reported on Saturday (185) than any other day. This accounted for about 19.6% of all fatal collisions and each resulted in the deaths of 216 persons. The fewest number of fatal collisions occurred on Wednesday with 116, resulting in 128 fatalities. This represents the second year in a row that all seven days of the week experienced at least 100 fatal collisions.
- ◆ October was the leading month for all collisions in 1999, with 9,670 and also the leading month for fatal collisions with 98. July had the most fatalities with 107. January and February tied for the fewest fatal collisions each with 61. January had the fewest fatalities with 68.
- ◆ Four out of the six 1999 holiday periods had more traffic fatalities than in 1998. These were the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Memorial Day was down from 1998 and Labor Day was the same.